

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic THOMAS HOUSE, Headmaster's House

and/or common Headmaster's House

2. Location

street & number W. Side Old Route 5, 750 Feet N. of Charlotte Hall School not for publication

city, town Charlotte Hall _____ vicinity of 1st _____ Road _____ congressional district _____

state Maryland _____ county St. Mary's County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Veterans Home Commission

street & number Old Armory Building, 11 Bladen Street

telephone no. _____

city, town Annapolis

state and zip code Maryland 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse

liber _____

street & number _____

folio _____

city, town Leonardtown

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____

state _____

7. Description

Survey No. SM - 370

Condition
____ excellent
____ good
____ fair

☒ deteriorated
____ ruins
____ unexposed

Check one
☒ unaltered
____ altered

Check one
☒ original site
____ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Thomas House stands at the end of a long driveway on the west side of Old Route 5, approximately 750 feet north of its intersection with Charlotte Hall School Road in Charlotte Hall.

The frame house is 2 ½ stories high and five bays wide with a pitched gable roof and end chimneys. A one story porch raised on blocks and supported by square Doric posts extends across the east elevation and one third of the north and south elevations; the north side of the porch is enclosed. The house is covered with German siding painted white.

The eight paneled central doorway is flanked by narrow sidelights and a transom. To the right of the door are two 6/6 sash windows; to the left are another door and window. There is an entrance to the kitchen on the southwest corner of the house. On the west facade there are three windows on the second floor and an off-center door under a pyramidally roofed porch with square Doric posts flanked by two 6/6 windows.

The interior consists of a center passage with two rooms on either side of the stair hall. The large, high ceilinged rooms are plastered and have little woodwork other than a ceiling cornice and Greek revival trim around the door and window openings. The southeast room has an entrance to the porch as well as a simple strip of moulding running 1 ½ feet below the cornice. A fireplace with a corbelled mantel stands in the center of the north wall of the northeast room. A cupboard and bathroom span the hallway which connects the northwest room with the kitchen. The inside of the kitchen door is made up of beaded flush paneling.

The steep staircase rises from the south side of the stairhall and turns, without a landing, to the right. The staircase has a heavy, turned newel post and a stairrail with two turned balusters per step.

There are six rooms on the second floor, three on either side of the stairway. The stairwell itself is bounded by a tall wooden balustrade. A small staircase enclosed with narrow beaded vertical boards rises from the east side of the hall. All of the second floor rooms have identical Greek Revival trim around windows and doors although they lack the ceiling cornices. Most of the closets in the upstairs rooms are later additions and are finished with thin plywood. The wood floors are in good condition and most of the interior doors have beaded flush paneling.

8. Significance

Survey No.

SM - 370

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Thomas House is one of the largest and most architecturally significant residences in the village of Charlotte Hall and probably dates from the middle of the nineteenth century. The large proportions and the simple unadorned exterior appearance are typical of frame farmhouses from this period. The interior, with its modified Georgian plan and Greek Revival trim with ceiling cornice also indicates that the house predates the Victorian era. The beaded flush paneling on the inside of the kitchen door also suggests a mid-century date of construction. The house has been little altered since that time but is now in deteriorated condition.

The land on which the Thomas House stands was part of the original grant of land given to Charlotte Hall School in the eighteenth century and was described on the plan of Charlotte Hall as lots 32, 37, and 38, each lot containing 3/4 acres.⁽¹⁾ In 1836 these adjoining lots were leased to George Slye for 12 dollars a year ⁽²⁾. In 1847 the land was sold as a leasehold to the Hammett family for 400 dollars. The fact that the property was sold for 1000 dollars in 1860 (and for the same price one year later) indicates that a house was standing by that time. The house and property passed through several owners until 1956 when James and Gladys Thomas sold the property back to the trustees of Charlotte Hall School. From then until the school's closing in 1976, the house served as the residence of the commandant or headmaster of the school. In 1978 the house along with the rest of the school property, was acquired by the Board of Public Works and transferred to the Maryland Veterans Home Commission.

(1) Land Records of St. Mary's County, JH8-523, July 29, 1836

(2) Ibid

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM - 370

Land Records, St. Mary's County

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres (approx.)

Quadrangle name Charlotte Hall

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Geoffrey Henry

organization Maryland Historical Trust

date September, 1984

street & number Shaw House, 21 State Circle

telephone 301-269-2439

city or town Annapolis

state Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

CHAIN OF TITLE

THOMAS HOUSE

Survey No. SM - 370

Magi No. 19037033504

MRB 18 - 262 July 31, 1978

Grantor: Trustees of Charlotte Hall School

Grantee: Maryland Board of Public Works

Consideration: \$10 for all land recorded in DBK 183-269, in particular eight parcels of land in Charlotte Hall.

64 - 76 July 10, 1956

Grantor: James Thomas, Gladys Thomas (wife), Martha Thomas

Grantee: Trustees of Charlotte Hall School

Consideration: \$10 for two acres with building

EBA 7-28 November 26, 1907

Grantor: Harry Harrison, et al

Grantee: Suzie Thomas

Consideration: \$850.00 for dwelling, lot and other buildings

JJG 5 - 430, 431 January 16, 1899

Grantor: Henry Adams, Administrator for Sarah Slye

Grantee: Sarah Harrison

Consideration: \$600.00 for dwelling, lot and other buildings.

JTB 3 - 527 1861

Grantor: George H. Adams

Grantee: Sarah Adams

Consideration: \$1000 for "a certain house and lot in Charlotte Hall, same as deeded by Thomas Slye to Henry Blackistone to George Adams

JJB 3 526 December 8, 1860

Grantor: Mr. Blackistone, Trustee for Jane, Julia, Charles, Whittingham, George and Columbia Hammett

Grantee: George Adams

Consideration: \$1000

1-259 March 25, 1847

Grantor: Thomas Slye, Administrator for George Slye

Grantee: Mr. Blackistone, trustee for Jane, Julia, Charles, Whittingham, George and Columbia Hammett

Consideration: \$400 for leasehold lot situated and lying in Charlotte Hall, Maryland with all and singular buildings

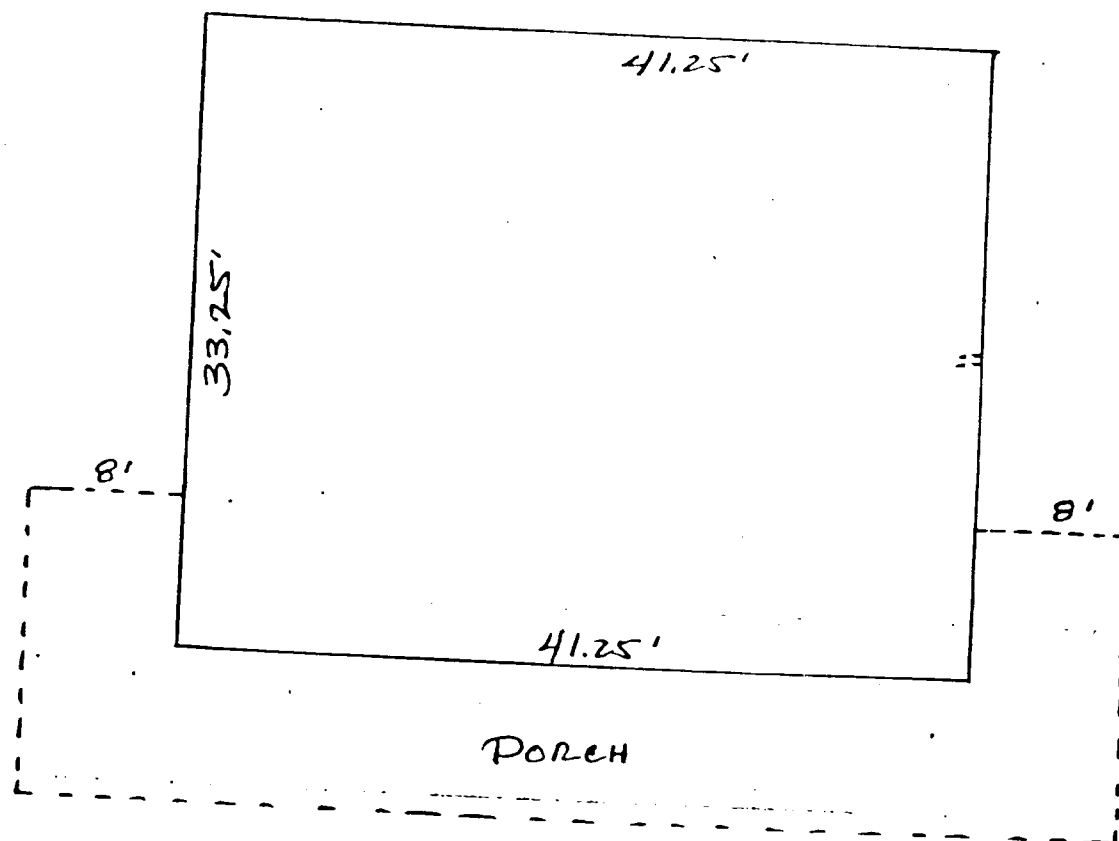
JH 8 - 523 July 29, 1836

Grantor: Trustees of Charlotte Hall School

Grantee: George Slye

Rent: \$12 a year for lots described on the plan of Charlotte Hall as 32, 37 and 38 each lot containing 3/4 acre.

BUILDING # 12 - THOMAS HOUSE



Scale 1" = 10'

New Veterans Home (1982)

aka Alumni Hall

Gymnasium Keech Hall
(1922) (c.1935)

site of old
Administration Bldg.
(1927-1982)

New Academic
Bldg. (1971)

Thomas House

12 ✓

SM-370

c.1950
brick
house

10

4-gable
house
(private)

Dormitory
(1960)

18

16 ✓

Academic
Bldg. (1897)
aka Old Classroom
Bldg.

(SM-86)
White
House (1803)

15

13
Dent Memorial
Chapel (1884)

Chelsey House (c. 1800, private)

OLD ROUTE 5

? 1
SM-207
Principal's House
(Headmaster's house)

4

2-story
frame house
(c. 1880)

6

19th C.
frame house
(semi-private)

5

late 19th C.
frame house
(semi-private)

7 ✓

Mattingly
House

I.R.S.
Bldg.

8 ✓

9 Davis
House

Briscoe
House
(c.1825,
private)

Youth Services
(private ?)

2

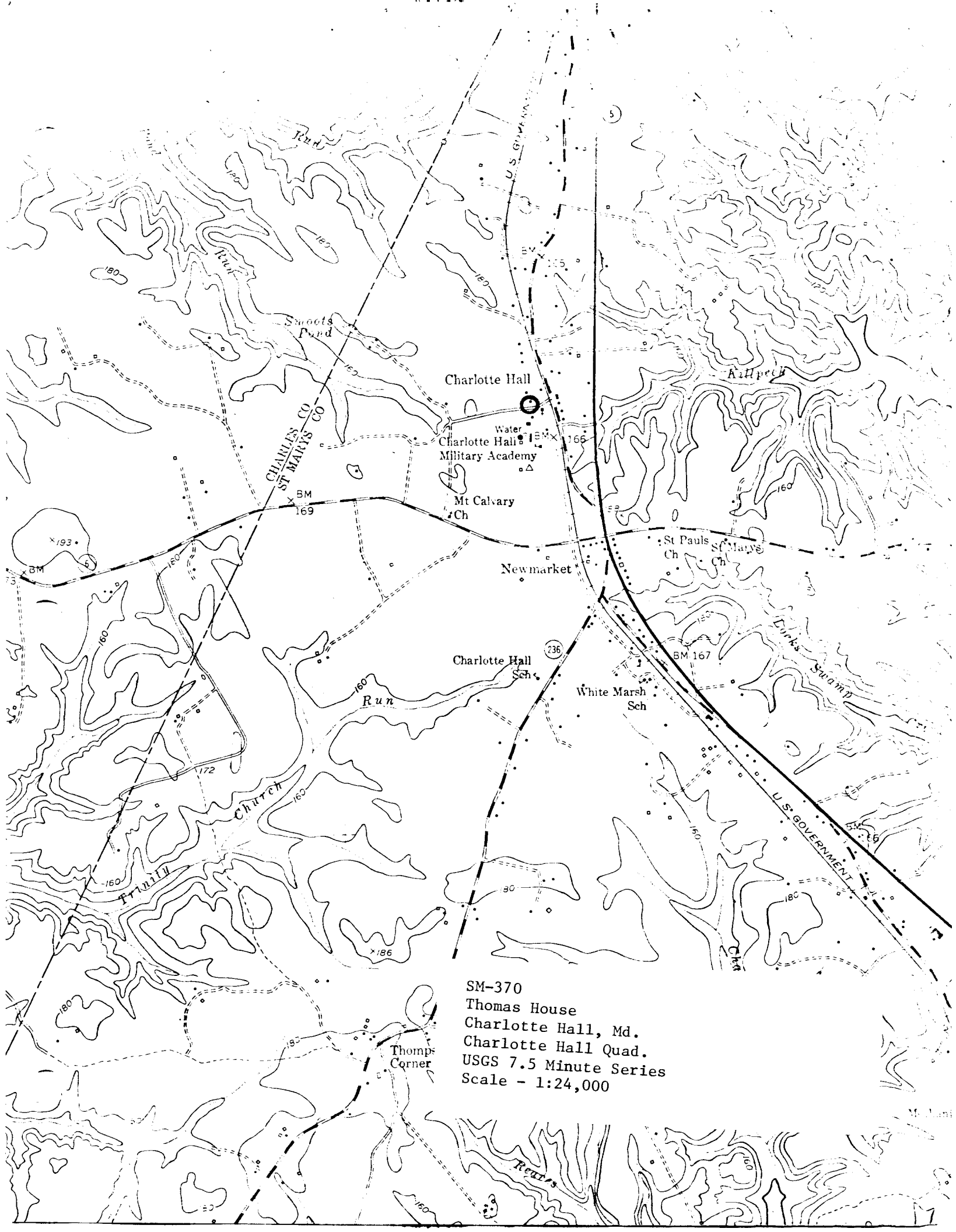
3

c.1960
brick house

CHARLOTTE HALL

3/6/84 KEK

SM-370
Briscoe
tenant house



SM-370
Thomas House
Charlotte Hall, Md.
Charlotte Hall Quad.
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Scale - 1:24,000



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

Door on West Facade

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

SW Corner

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

View through Porch looking South

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM-370

Thomas House
Charlotte Hall, Md.
West elevation
Geoffrey Henry
Negatives at MHT

7/84



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

NE Facade

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

W. Facade

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM-370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte, Maryland

East Facade

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

South Facade

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte Hall, Maryland

Detail of SE Corner of Portico

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust



SM - 370

Thomas House

Charlotte Hall Academy

Charlotte, Maryland

SE Elevation

Geoffrey Henry 7/84

Negatives at Maryland Historical Trust